

# *Loose Lips Can Still Sink Ships*

Military strategists have long understood the value of catching an enemy by surprise.

OPSEC, or operational security, attempts to prevent adversaries from gaining critical or sensitive data about our intentions or capabilities by evaluating available information — often unclassified — which is conveyed unintentionally by our words, actions or behavior.

Throughout the years, slogans, like “loose lips sink ships,” have been coined by the Navy to help teach Sailors the importance of maintaining our own OPSEC. Now, as America wages its war on terrorism, the words of the past are as applicable today as they were in past conflicts.

The old security threats, such as discussing sensitive information in public or on the telephone, are still out there, but widespread use of the Web and e-mail present additional ways one might inadvertently give the enemy that one piece of information he needs to figure out our intentions.

Internet chat rooms and discussion boards, which give many people a place to share “real-time” discussion, could also give our adversary the information he needs to avoid being caught by surprise. Now is the time to be especially vigilant in protecting information that could compromise ourselves, our ships, our military and our country.

How can we do that? We just need to heed the words of wisdom from our past. Think OPSEC.

For more information on Operational Security, go to [www.defendamerica.mil/articles/a021202b.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/a021202b.html)



Captain's Call Kit  
Naval Media Center, Bldg. 168  
2713 Mitscher Rd., SW  
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5819  
E-mail: [pubs@mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:pubs@mediacen.navy.mil)  
DSN 288- or (202) 433-4380  
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